



Learning from Critical Conversations

What does good practice look like?



How not to find it...



How to find it...



How to find it...



How to find it...



HONESTY

It isn't always the best policy

Role(s) of the artist

- Artist as director – “benevolent dictator” (!)
- Artist facilitating the creativity of others
- Middle ground
- Visibility of the artist
- Conceptual clarity and rigour

Markers of quality: by the artist

- Professionalism/rigour
- Listening
- Change in the artist

Markers of quality: in group dynamics

- Everybody takes part
- Length of relationship
- Participant choice

Markers of quality: in the work that is shown

- Aesthetics internal to the artform
- Subtlety
- Avoiding clichés

Markers of quality: audiences

- Audience reaction: are they enjoying it?
- Reaction to performance, composition and image

Practice that has worked: relationship building

- Listening and observation
- You don't have to start with 'making art'
- Provide an easy way in to your artform
- Respond to context
- Absurdity and playfulness
- Build a community of participants

Practice that has worked:

- You don't have to know everything
- The group has collective knowledge
- Participants are experts
- Provide examples of work you think is good
- Engage people in critical reflection on the work they make

Practice that has worked:

- Failure is Good
- Persistence is Crucial
- Make a Plan – Then Abandon It
- Enable people to make new identities
- Never assume you know
- Don't go with the first good idea

Discussion

- Creating the Conditions for Quality in Participatory Art
- Expertise, Professionalism and Not Knowing
- A Spectrum of Participatory Practice
- Challenge and Intervention

Spectrum of Participatory Practice

| Kester | | Bishop | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Role of participants | Participants in a process of creative enquiry, which they help to shape | Material for an artist's work | Role of participants |
| Authorship of the work | Co-authored, between artist and participants | Single-authored | Authorship of the work |
| Ethics of participation | Informed consent, plus on-going negotiation about the content and direction of the process | Informed consent | Ethics of participation |

Thanks for listening

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